

be seen in some instances abounding themselves in the lower rooms, where the wind and the weather do not yet fully penetrate, the upper ones being unroofed and exposed to its full influence. The doorway here delineated (fig. 2), stands nearly opposite Lynch castle; it is a beautiful example among the many which abound in its neighbourhood. The deep moulding shown is elegantly varied at each side, where the flat projection from the wall would only meet the eye, by an angular cutting resting upon the terminations of the hood moulding, as upon a corkel. The doorway is arched, and the spaces between the arch and the mouldings above is filled on each side with a boldly sculptured triple leaf, radiating from a central ball flower: the way in which the heavy hood mouldings terminate in delicately executed leaves at the base on each side, is very beautiful.

The hood-mouldings of all the doors, and many of the windows of these old mansions, always terminate at each side by a gradually inward slope towards the wall, so that each rib contracts to one point, from whence foliated ornaments spring forward and entwine in the most quaint and beautiful manner. Two examples are given (figs. 3), from doors in Lombard-street. They show the single and double turn of these ornaments: when single, they invariably turn on each side toward the door. The trefoil is the prevailing ornament, as in the instance here exhibited, as well as on the doorway already described; the vine is also equally common, as delineated in the second example. The trefoil was the national emblem, as well as the armorial bearing of the powerful ruling family, the Lynches; the vine may, independently of its beauty and fitness as an architectural enrichment, have been chosen as a badge of the staple trade of the town—wine, with which it supplied nearly all Ireland. In 1615, the records of the town state that "upwards of 1,200 tons of Spanish wine were landed here for account of the merchants of Galway."

Over many of the gates are sculptured shields, displaying the arms and quarterings of the persons residing there, with all their family connections, as well as others containing their marks as merchants; very frequently the names of the owners are also engraved above them, together with the date of erection. One of the simplest and latest of these decorated doors bears the arms and crests of the families of Brown and Lynch, joined by intermarriage as proprietors, surrounded by munting, and inscribed above each MARTIN BROWN—MARTIN LYNCH, separated by a cross springing from I.I.S., beneath which is the date, 1627.

The cause of the peculiarities that thus existed in ancient Galway may be explained by the very singular laws and regulations made by the inhabitants for the exclusion of the native Irish; to the jealous manner in which they lived within their strongly walled town, enriched by an exclusive trade, and holding little or no connection with the people without. Among the bye-laws of the corporation for 1516, it was ordered, "that no man of the town shall lend or sell gally, butte, or barque, to an Irishman." And in 1518 it was ordered, that none of the inhabitants should admit any of the Burkes, McWilliams, Kellys, or any other sept into their houses; "that neither O ne Mac should strutte nor swagger through the streets of Galway." Hardiman, the historian of this town, has given many other curious entries from these laws, which shew that Spanish pride and jealousy operated most forcibly upon the ruling powers of the town. He engraves a curious map of the town in 1651, which gives a bird's-eye view of every building, and displays the strong walls and bastions with which it was encompassed. He observes that this map "gives an accurate idea of the former opulent state and magnificence of Galway, adorned with superb and highly decorated buildings, and surrounded by every requisite for security and defence which either art could suggest or wealth command; it was universally admitted to be the most perfect city in the kingdom, while its rich inhabitants stood conspicuously distinguished for their commercial pursuits, public zeal, and high independence of spirit."

A brief notice of the rise and decline of this town, gleaned from Mr. Hardiman's quarto volume, may be here acceptable. In 1124 a strong castle was built, and the town put in defence, to the great jealousy of the Munster

men, between whom and the men of Connaught, of which Galway was the capital, a deadly enmity existed, and which continued until very recent times.* In 1132, Connor, king of Munster, dispatched a body of troops under the command of Cormac McCarthy, who took the castle, put all the inhabitants to the sword, and, after destroying the castle and town, soon after defeated and slew Connor O'Flaherty, the lord of Iar Connaught. In 1149, after recovering themselves from this invasion, they were doomed to another from Turlough O'Brien, the new king of Munster, who did them nearly as much mischief. With indomitable perseverance the inhabitants soon righted again, and in 1154 the ships of "Galway Pune" and of Connacnamara were put upon an expedition to the northern part of the kingdom.

After the invasion of Ireland in 1170, the castle was fortified, and the town put into a state of defence. It at this time consisted of a small community, composed of a few families of fishermen and merchants, principally under the protection of the O'Flahertys, who held the castle and surrounding territory, as feudal lords, from the kings of Connaught; but it ultimately came into the hands of Richard de Burgo, and became his principal residence, and finally the capital of the province, which it still continues to be. He fortified against the incursions of the Irish, and appointed a magistrate, called a provost or bailiff, who governed the inhabitants and established laws. It now increased rapidly in wealth and importance, and being the stronghold of the De Burgos, was always receiving additional military strength; yet incursions became frequent and destructive. An entry in the pipe roll, temp. Henry III., informs us that Gillepatrick MacCarthy was fined 50s. "on obtaining his pardon for burning the town of Galway, and for the death of David Bruce;" a singularly reasonable rate of charge for so much mischief!

During the reign of Edward the First, the trade and prosperity of the town rapidly increased, and many new settlers appeared, laying the foundation of its future wealth. About this time some of the most important of the old families first came—families that continued for many centuries its wisest rulers and richest traders. The earliest settlers were the families of Blake, Bodkin, Ffont, Joyce, Lynch, Martin, and Skerret.† With the spirit and enterprise of these men Galway flourished greatly, foreign trade improved, and in 1277 Dermot More O'Brien, who resided at Trunragh Clare, received twelve tons of wine yearly, as tribute from the merchants of the town, for protecting the port from pirates, and maintaining a suitable force for that purpose. In 1303, the revenue called "the new customs," being an impost of three-pence in the pound, due from merchant strangers only, upon all commodities imported or exported, was farmed out for one year only to Richard le Blake for 32*l*.

In 1375, the king's staple was fixed in the town for the sale of wool, sheepskins, woollens, and leather; a privilege only before granted to Cork and Drogheda. During the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the trade of the town wonderfully increased, both with France and Spain, from whence the merchants annually imported vast quantities of wine, as well as other commodities. They were still as exclusive as ever, and as anxious to keep out the Irish, as well as all external rulers. For this purpose they exerted themselves to obtain from the pope a separate religious jurisdiction within their own walls, which was granted them; and they also procured from Richard III. a power to remodel their corporation, turn out the De Burgos, who had become exceedingly unpopular, and elect a mayor and two bailiffs from their own body as rulers, and that no person, not excepting the king's lieutenant and chancellor (who were then privileged), should enter the town without their license. The first election of officers under this charter took place on the first of August 1485.

* In Hall's "Ireland," the following modern anecdote, remarkably characteristic of this hostile feeling between the inhabitants of the two provinces, occurs:

"We remember a man once expressing his astonishment that so much bother should have been made about a 'boy' who had been killed in a row at a fair, concluding his harangue by an exclamation, 'and he was nothing but a Connaught man after all!'"

† The fourteen ancient families of Galway "consisted of those already named, and Atty, Browne, D'Arcy, Deane, French, Kewnan, and Morris. Many of these still exist; a large importer of wines is a direct descendant and bears the name of the merchant Lynch, who have for more 400 years carried on this branch of commerce. (Hall's "Ireland.")

During the next century Galway was regarded as the stronghold of the English government and trade. Its wealth increased, and its improvement as a town continued. About the middle of the sixteenth century an Italian traveller in quaintly described in the annals as having seen at one view "the blessed sacrament in the hands of the priest," boats passing up and down the river, a ship entering the port in full sail, a salmon killed with a spear, and hunters and hounds pursuing a deer; upon which he observed, that although he had travelled over the greatest part of Europe, he had never before witnessed a sight which combined so much variety and beauty."

The downfall of Galway began with the fall of the Stuarts. In 1642 the fleet of Alexander, Lord Forbes, consisting of seventeen ships devoted to the Parliamentary party, landed at Galway, took possession of St. Mary's church, planted ordnance against the town, burnt the surrounding villages, but did not gain the fort, which was, however, taken and demolished in 1643. Ludlow, the commander-in-chief, who, in 1651, was making the country around bitterly feel the "curse of Cromwell," was sent to by the people of Galway, to propose terms of capitulation, they having held out for the Stuarts. He coolly told them, that "if the Lord inclined their hearts to submission, such moderate terms would be consented to as men in their condition could reasonably expect;" refusing all other arrangements, and also forbidding an appeal to the parliament. The principal nobility and inhabitants now shipped themselves off and abandoned the town, which surrendered, and was placed under the military government of Colonel Stables, who tyrannized over the inhabitants, fining them at the rate of 40*l*. a month, and enforcing payment at the sword-point, his soldiers, who would rush like banditti into the dwellings of the wretched inhabitants to obtain it. He even seized and shipped to the West Indies upwards of a thousand persons, of all conditions, under the pretence of insurgency and vagrancy. In July 1655, all papists were ordered to leave Galway before the following November; and "the superb houses which, in the language of the Annals, were fit to lodge kings and princes, and described as the best built and most splendidly furnished in the kingdom, were seized upon and occupied by the lowest of the populace, until they were completely ruined."

Not only did the houses of the merchantmen of Galway display their taste and magnificence: they are described by Sir Henry Sidney as "refined, of urbane and elegant manners, contracting no stain from their rude and unpollished neighbours." Heylin calls their town "a noted empire, and lately of so great fame with foreign merchants, that an outlandish merchant, meeting with an Irishman, demanded at what part of Galway Ireland stood." With such men the churches and monastic buildings received their full share of decorative enrichment, but of which little now remains. Civil war originally, neglect afterwards, and recent "improvements," have all done their part in the demolition. There is still a convent in Lombard-street, possessing its old external features, but the collegiate church of St. Mary, originally founded in 1320, contains the most interesting vestiges. The porch was erected by James Lynch Fitz-Stephen, mayor in 1493, as a protection to the poor from the inclemency of the weather, and as a residence for the sexton, who still lives in the rooms above, which are reached by an external stair beside it. The door leading into the church (fig. 4), is a good example of the prevailing taste displayed throughout; the ornaments surrounding it resembling those so frequently seen in French architecture at this period, and known as that of *Francien premier*, or the *Renaissance*; but the slender pilasters shooting upward from the sides and centre, with their peculiar foliated pinnacles, shew its direct transmission from the country where that style originated. The windows of the church externally present the same features as this door, the tracery flam-

* This must have been before 1649, when public mass was prohibited.

† Hardiman, "History of Galway." The town never recovered these fatal wars. Charles the second, with his usual ingratitude, behaved ill to the Galway men, who had incurred death and ruin in his cause. He left them to destitution, but he gave the town the privilege of being a free borough of itself, taken in two miles in a direct line round it, to be called the county of the town of Galway. The walls and batteries were levelled by William III. in 1691 after the surrender, and fresh Government forts erected by the sea.